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Lazaretto, 4 miles from town, and they were brought from surrounding towns.

The shipping continues free from fever. One hundred and twelve travelers sailed yesterday for Havana. They are as a rule immune Cubans returning home.

A small lumber schooner *Nan M. Dantzler* will leave here this week for Pascagoula with several passengers. If you think necessary, warn Dr. Duke. Have forwarded to-day under separate cover my report from Vera Cruz.

Yours, very truly,

SAM'L H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

SANITARY REPORT FROM VERA CRUZ.

The city.

Buildings.—Vera Cruz is an old Spanish-built city of about 30,000 inhabitants, situated upon the Gulf coast, about 19° 20' north latitude. It is built upon a low, sandy beach only a few feet above sea level, and is almost flat, but there is a small rise from the sea to the sand hills back of the city.

The houses are Spanish in architecture and construction, of brick, two stories high, and built around an open court. The floors and roofs are tiled, and the walls thick and massive. The blocks of buildings are built solid, and the only ventilation is through the court and from the streets.

Streets.—The streets are narrow and in the old part of the city are paved. The pavement is of cobblestones and is very uneven and generally dirty. Through each street is an open gutter that is supposed to carry off the rainfall and house water. During the rainy season they succeed very well, but in the dry season the contents of the gutter assumes a jelly-like consistency, stagnates, and stinks. Every day or two a member of the street-cleaning department attempts to shove this waste along the gutter to the harbor, but only succeeds in spreading it over the street adjacent, and thereby saves the bay.

There are no sewers and an inadequate water supply. Two drains have been built across the newly made land in front of the city to carry the surface drainage of the town into the harbor.

Cesspools.—Cesspools are built in the courts of each house, or two or three property owners operate one in common. They are rarely cleaned, and generally odorous. They are emptied by pumping the contents into barrels and hauling it off in the suburbs. The excavations are made at night, and the entire neighborhood is aware of what is going on.

Garbage.—The garbage department of the city is well regulated. All filth not carried out by the carts, or dropped in the streets, is picked up by the buzzards and dogs. The carts are dumped in a low place near the intersection of the Mexican and Interoceanic railroads, not 2,000 yards from a well-populated part of the town.

Water.—The water is piped from a river 7 miles below the city. The supply is inadequate and the quality not good.

Contracts have been let for a first-class sewerage and waterworks, and they will be completed in about eighteen months.